

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim Numbering:

In Applicants' September 5, 2008 response to the prior Office Action of May 16, 2008, certain new claims were inadvertently misnumbered because the claim number 33 was repeated. To correct this error, the five claims 33, 33, 34, 35, and 36 have been renumbered as claims 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37, respectively.

Summary of Office Action:

Claims 5, 11, 16, 22, 28, 34-36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Note that claims 34-36 and 37 were rejected in the Office Action as misnumbered claims 33-35 and 36.

Claims 28, 29, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,519,366 to Kaneko et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,918,050 to Dworsky. Note that claims 34 and 35 were rejected in the Office Action as misnumbered claims 33 and 34.

Claims 30-32 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 28, but were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of Amendments

Claims 5, 11, 16, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, and 37 have been amended. Claims 30, 34, 35, and 36 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Applicants have amended claims 5, 11, 16, 22, 28, 33, and 37 and respectfully request that the rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Applicants have amended claim 28 to include the limitations of claim 30. The Office Action stated claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 28. Claim 28 includes all limitations of claim 30, and thus Applicants submit that amended claim 28 now includes subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner and is therefore allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 28 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 29, 31, 32, and 33 depend from claim 28 and thus include all of the limitations of claim 28. As discussed above, claim 28 is deemed allowable by the Examiner over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Therefore Applicants submit that claims 29, 31, 32, and 33 are also allowable over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, Applicants consider a specific discussion of the dependent claims to be unnecessary. Thus Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with or acquiescence to the rejection of such claims or as waving any argument regarding those claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2207, under Order No. 58578-8001.US01 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

1/7/2009

Respectfully submitted,

By

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